

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Russia
Program Title:	Legal Systems Strengthened
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	118-0221
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$4,046,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$230,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$2,285,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY2002
Estimated Completion Date:	FY2005

Summary: USAID's program to strengthen legal systems includes: increasing public awareness of legal rights by strengthening legal protection and enhancing public relations skills of human rights organizations; increasing lawyers' skills in representing clients through clinical legal education; enforcing women's rights (gender issues); making the judicial system more transparent, independent, and efficient, through exchanges between Russian and American judicial officials on judicial education, ethics, court administration, and the implementation of jury trials.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Judicial and legal reform (\$2,916,000 FSA). Funding will continue a pilot court program to encourage innovative case management and court administration procedures for nationwide replication, along with distance learning programs being developed by the Academy of Justice. Assistance will continue on judicial administration, court management, and judicial ethics, including visits by a dozen U.S. advisors experienced in these areas, many with extensive experience with the Russian judicial system. About 150 key members of the Russian judiciary's qualifying collegia (including new non-judge members) will be trained to apply the norms of judicial ethics, and publications on these topics will be distributed. At least four more legal clinics will become training centers. A new component will focus on strengthening the advocacy skills of lawyers, increasingly important due to major new civil and criminal laws. Some technical assistance and training will support the Russian government's decision to implement jury trials nationwide in 2003. USAID's partners are Chemonics, the American Bar Association's Central and Eastern European Legal Initiative (ABA/CEELI) (prime), and the Russian-American Rule of Law Consortium.

Legal awareness and advocacy (\$660,000 FSA). USAID launched a new human rights program in FY 2002 and awarded three grants to organizations to develop NGOs' advocacy skills, improve the image of human rights NGOs among the general public, and increase access to justice through human rights law clinics. Grantees will continue this work in 35 regions of Russia, and \$340,000 will be disbursed in new grants during FY 2003. Work already begun under one grant will continue with incremental funding. New work will be funded under SO 2.11 "A More Open, Participatory Society". USAID's key partners are the Moscow Helsinki Group, Memorial, a Russian NGO called Faith, Hope, and Love, and others to be determined.

Program management (\$470,000 FSA). These funds will cover program-related personnel, training, evaluations, studies, and related program management costs.

FY 2004 Program:

Judicial and legal reform (\$1,834,000 FSA). The judicial reform activity is ending this fiscal year, but USAID intends to follow on its successful work with the Russian judiciary. The precise nature of the assistance would be determined in close consultation with the Russian judiciary over the next year; it may

include support for reform in judicial review of administrative action. At least three sustainable structures for dealing with domestic violence would be created; eight legal clinics would function as training facilities for other clinics; and seven to nine sister bar partnerships would facilitate the publishing of court decisions in the partner regions. USAID would decide how to best support these objectives after this fiscal year. One option is to use some or all of this money to support legal education reform, especially because the Open Society Institute, a major donor in this area, is withdrawing from Russia.

Legal awareness and advocacy (\$231,000 FSA). USAID plans to continue funding one grant awarded to a Russian NGO in FY 2002. New grants will be funded under SO 2.11. The remainder may be used for new grants in the increasingly important area of religious and ethnic tolerance.

Program support (\$220,000 FSA). These funds would cover evaluations, studies, and related program management costs.

Performance and Results: USAID's programs have helped to empower the judiciary to push for further judicial reform. The Russian Council of Judges became more effective in formulating the needs of the judiciary and lobbying for them. Judicial salaries have risen substantially and the government has adopted an ambitious plan for increased funding for the courts through 2006.

USAID's judicial reform contractor, the Russian-American Judicial Partnership, has been deeply involved in legal education and training. The Supreme Qualifying Collegium widely distributed and posted on the Internet a first-time publication reporting on ethical violations by judges and resulting disciplinary actions.

ABA/CEELI has made significant progress in enhancing lawyers' skills in representing clients. It helped legal educators strengthen legal clinics, affording representation to clients on subjects that included women's rights. Four legal clinics are now resource centers, and ABA/CEELI published a unique handbook detailing the work of more than 60 legal clinics in Russia. ABA/CEELI has trained women's rights activists and law enforcement officials; has trained 40 non-lawyer Social Advocates to help women in crisis navigate the Russian legal system; and has given assistance to local partners to advocate for changes to the criminal procedure, housing, and family codes. Pilot centers in three cities are testing grounds for an intensive, multidimensional gender program.

USAID sponsored a seminar on ethnic and religious tolerance in conjunction with well-known human rights activists as well as a study of tolerance in the Volga Federal District. The study recommended activities that complement USAID's work in human rights and hold promise for further involvement in this area.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Russia

118-0221 Legal Systems Strengthened	FSA
Through September 30, 2001	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
Fiscal Year 2002	
Obligations	4,374
Expenditures	39
Through September 30, 2002	
Obligations	4,374
Expenditures	39
Unliquidated	4,335
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	230
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA	
Obligations	4,046
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003	
Obligations	4,276
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA	
Obligations	2,285
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	10,935